

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Assaf at the interview held June 16, 2005, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to claim 9. Claim 9 is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claim 9 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Moss et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,162,927). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Moss fails to disclose or suggest an optical recording medium that includes recording layers containing photo-isomerizable components that record holograms through photo-isomerization, as recited in independent claim 9. Moreover, as also agreed during the personal interview, criticality of the photo-isomerizable nature of the components must be shown. As requested by the Examiner, arguments pertaining to the criticality of the photo-isomerizable nature of the components are presented below.

Although Moss teaches a method for forming a multi-layer holographic device on a major surface of a substrate (Abstract), and the holographic device includes photosensitive material such as dichromated gelatin, Moss does not disclose or suggest a recording layer that contains photo-isomerizable components. Photo-isomerizable materials exhibit photo-induced double refraction that respond to a polarizing state of incident radiation and that can record the polarizing direction of the incident radiation. These materials can maintain the changed refractive indices or absorption coefficients at normal temperature, in contrast to

other conventional photosensitive materials. Moss' photosensitive material is exposed so that the photosensitive material is cured, which changes the refractive index and allows the recording of a hologram. However, the curing reaction is irreversible so that the changed refractive index is maintained at normal temperature. In contrast to Moss, the photo-isomerizable compound claimed in the present invention is isomerized by irradiation with light, and the photo-isomerization reaction is reversible. As such, the recording medium as claimed in the present invention can be used as a rewritable medium, while Moss' multilayer holographic device is not rewritable. Thus, the presence of photo-isomerizable materials in the claimed invention is a critical difference with Moss' photosensitive material. As such, Moss fails to teach, disclose or render obvious the features of independent claim 9. Accordingly, independent claim 9, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Moss.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Tarik M. Nabi
Registration No. 55,478

JAO:TMN/ccs
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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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